

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 EA-09 AID-05 HEW-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

CG CAMP PENDLETON PRIORITY

CG FORT CHAFFEE PRIORITY

INDIANTOWN GAP MR PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF (ISA)

UNCLAS STATE 239314

ISA FOR GENERAL CANNON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REPATRIATE SHIP

GENEVA PASS UNHCR

USUN PASS MR. DAYAL, UNHCR REP

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS FROM IATF

1. WE ARE TODAY SENDING FOLLOWING CABLE TO ALL REPATRIATES WHO REGISTERED WITH UNHCR (AND RETURNED QUESTIONNAIRE) AND WHO ARE NOW IN U.S. SOCIETY. WE ARE ALSO TELPHONING THOSE FOR WHOM WE HAVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT. IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT YOU HAVE

FILED AN APPLICATION FOR REPATRIATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). BECAUSE OF YOUR PREVIOUSLY STATED INTEREST IN RETURNING TO VIETNAM, WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR JOINING THE GROUP OF REPATRIATES ON GUAM WHO HAVE ELECTED TO RETURN ON A VIETNAMESE SHIP WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR YOU TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. WHILE THE UNHCR CONTINUES HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES FOR YOUR RETURN. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKES A NEUTRAL POSITION ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM ON THE SHIP SALING FROM GUAM. THE DECISION IS YOURS ALONE TO MAKE.

THE SHIP IS BEING RENOVATED AND PROVISIONED NOW AND WILL BE RETURNING TO VIETNAM AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE VIETNAMESE REPATRIATES IN GUAM. THEY HAVE STATED THAT THEY ARE LEAVING OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL AND THAT THEY WILL NOT HOLD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE TRIP. IN A RECENT RADIO BROADCAST BY HANOI, THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM REQUESTED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF PERMITTING THESE REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME BY SHIP. IN THEIR VIEW, QTE AUTHORIZING VIETNAMESE ABROAD TO RETURN TO OUR COUNTRY IS A MATTER THAT FALLS WITHIN VIETNAM'S SOVERIGNTY.QTE THE REPATRIATES ON GUAM, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THEY AND THE SHIP WILL BE PERMITTED TO REENTER VIETNAM BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

THE UNHCR WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE PERMISSION FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOR THE EARLY RETURN OF THOSE WHO DO NOT CHOOSE TO GO BACK WITH THE SHIP. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT IF AND WHEN THIS PERMISSION WILL BE RECEIVED.

IF YOU ELECT TO RETURN ON THE SHIP, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO GUAM. PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSS YOUR INTENTIONS. WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU REGARDLESS OF YOUR DECISION. OUR TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE (202) 254-5878, 254-5946/254-6185. (CALL BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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0900 AND 1700 EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME.) WE SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR SPONSOR WHO IS ALSO INVITED TO CALL, IF HE DESIRES.

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WASHINGTON, D.C. END TEXT.

3. TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

(A) REPATRIATES AT CHAFFEE AND INDIANTOWN WHO ELECT TO RETURN BY SHIP SHOULD BE MOVED TO PENDLETON TO ARRIVE THERE NLT 15 OCTOBER. SCC'S SHOULD ARRANGE THESE MOVEMENTS BY COMMERCIAL MEANS, ADVISING PENDLETON OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY NAME. WE PLAN TO STAGE AT PENDLETON ALL REPATRIATES FROM CONUS WHO ELECT TO RETURN BY SHIP PRIOR

TO MOVEMENT OF ENTIRE GROUP TO GUAM TO BOARD SHIP.

(B) IATF IS ARRANGING THROUGH ICEM WASHINGTON REP, MR. BRATTON TO PROVIDE TICKETS TO THOSE IN KBMS. SOCIETY TO TRAVEL FROM THEIR PRESENT LOCATIONS TO PENDLETON TO ARRIVE THERE NLT 15 OCTOBER. ICEM WILL ADVISE PENDLETON ETA'S OF THOSE WHOSE TRAVEL IT ARRANGES.

(C) ICEM WASHINGTON REP WILL ALSO ARRANGE ONWARD TRANSPORTATION FOR ENTIRE GROUP FROM PENDLETON TO GUAM VIA REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

(D) REFUGEE REPATRIATES MUST ARRIVE ET PENDLETON BY OCTOBER 15 IF THEY EXPECT TO REACH GUAM IN TIME FOR SHIP DEPARTURE.

4. FOR PENDLETON: REQUEST YOU ESTABLISH SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN CAMP FOR THIS REPATRIATE GROUP FOR FEW DAYS THEY WILL BE STAGING THERE. ALSO REQUEST YOU ASSIST WITH MEETING ARRIVALS AND TRANSPORT FROM AIRPORTS TO CAMP. WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME PREDICT HOW MANY THERE WILL BE IN GROUP, BUT WILL ADVISE AS WE LEARN NUMBERS EXTENDED. OUR BEST CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT THERE WILL BE LESS THAN SIXTY.

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5. FOR GUAM: SHIP DEPARTURE DATE WILL DEPEND ON: READINESS OF VESSEL; READINESS OF CREW; ANTICIPATED WEATHER CONDITIONS; ARRIVAL ON GUAM OF REPATRIATE PASSENGERS FROM U.S. LATTER WILL NOT OCCUR PRIOR TO 17 OCTOBER; THEREFORE REQUEST THAT NO PROMISES BE MADE GO GUAM REPATRIATES RE DEPARTURE DATE. KISSINGER

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